## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 AID-05 EB-07

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R 131334Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4438

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 5647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SWEL ICRC ET

SUBJECT: THE EPMG, THE ICRC AND INTERNATIONAL VOLAGS: EMBASSY

COMMENTS

REF: ADDIS 5522

- 1. THERE FOLLOW THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM.
- 2. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES IN JOINT EFFORTS AND DISCUSSIONS IN ADDIS TO URGE ON THE EPMG A MORE FORTHCOMING POSTURE TOWARD ICRC/VOLAG ACTIVITIES IN ERITREA. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN PART OF THESE EFFORTS, AND WE HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS DIRECTLY TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EPMG. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

- 3. GIVEN EPMG INTRANSIGENCE ON THIS ISSUE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE ICRC WILL BE GRANTED ACCESS TO ERITREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. FOR ONE THING, ANY ICRC REPORT BASED ON FIELD INTERVIEWS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY TO INCLUDE STRONG CRITICISMS OF PAST EPMG ACTIONS AGAINST CIVILIAN, AND CONDEMNATIONS OF THE PAUCITY OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.
- 4. DESPITE THIS PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATE, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH JOINT REPRESENTATIONS TO THE EPMG THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE. IF OUR ATTITUDES ARE TO HAVE ANY FORCE, WE MUST ALSO INDICATE OUR REAL AND LEGITIMATE CONCERNS BY OCCASIONAL DIRECT REMINDERS TO MOFA OFFICIALS AND OTHERS. TO DO NEITHER WOULD GIVE THE EPMG AND ALSO THE OTHER COUNTRUES INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEM THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, RELIEF (ASSISTANCE)

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

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Subject: THE EPMG, THE ICRC AND INTERNATIONAL VOLAGS: EMBASSY COMMENTS TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, ET, ICRC To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006